

REMARKS

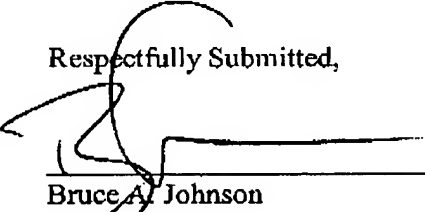
Claims 1-25 are pending in the present application, with claims 5-7, 14, 18-19, and 23-25 withdrawn.

In a telephone interview on December 15, 2005, the Examiner indicated that independent claims 1 and 9 are allowable. With respect to independent claim 15, the Examiner and the Applicants' agent agreed on a proposed amendment that would make claim 15 allowable. With respect to independent claim 21, the Examiner and the Applicants' agent agreed on proposed amendments that would make claim 21 allowable. With respect to dependent claims 22-25, the Examiner suggested that the Applicants' re-word claims 22-25 to make the language consistent with the language of amended claim 21. Although claims 23-25 have been withdrawn, the Examiner requested that amendments be made, since they would be allowed once the parent claim was allowed. Therefore, amendments were also made to withdrawn claims 23 and 24.

Should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Bruce A. Johnson, Applicants' Attorney at 512-301-9900 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

12/16/05
Date

Respectfully Submitted,


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